Public Call Office to all Gram Panchayats in the country

1692. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all Gram Panchayats in the country would have a public call office within the eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the total number of Gram Panchayats covered so far with this facility; and

(c) the total number of public call offices to be opened during the current financial year and the amount car-marked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are 24591 Gram Panchayats provided with this facility upto 31-7-1990.

(c) It is proposed to open 15,000 Long Distance Public Telephones during the current financial year at an estimated cost of Rs. 120 crores.

Women Used as Decoys by Terrorists in Punjab

1693. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that terrorists in Punjab are using women as decoys in large number to trap victims; and

(b) if so, the action Government have taken to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Government are aware that terrorists are making use of women for their nafarious activities. The Security agencies are vigilant and take appropriate action as and when required.

Five Point formula for solution of Kashmir Problem

1694. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Congressman Stephan J. Solarz has presented a five point formula for solution of Kashmir problem before India and Pakistan; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. US Congressman Stephen Solarz (Democrat, New York), during his meeting with the Prime Minister, submitted the following five-point formulation for consideration:

(i) Both sides (India and Pakistan) to agree not to provide military assistance or any other type of support to movements aimed at disabilising either country;

(ii) Both sides to commit themselves to redeploy their armed forces to peace-time locations;

(iii) Both sides to agree upon certain confidence building measures;

(iv) Both sides to reaffirm adherence to the Simla Agreement.

(v) India to make a commitment to hold free and fair elections in Jammu and Kashmir at the earliest possible time. The elections would be held under the circumstances which would generate confidence in their fairness.

(b) It was conveyed to Congressman Solarz that the basic issue was Pakistan's support to secessionism and terrorism. Hence, if Pakistan were to implement the first point of the five-point formulation, all other things would fall into place.

Soviet help in improving Bilateral relations with Neighbouring countries

1695. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

SHRI PRABHAKAR B. KORE:

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the stand of the Government of India on China, Pakistan Soviet Union, Nepal and Sri Lanka;

(b) whether Government propose to solve the Indo-Pak. Indo-China disputes with the help of Soviet Union; and

(c) what is the progress in solving the outstanding problems of our neighbouring countries and what efforts Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) It is Government policy to maintain and strengthen relations with all States, while devoting special attention to fostering better relations with our neighbours.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Over the past eight months, Government has made considerable progress in resolving outstanding problems and improving the quality of India's relations with its neighbours. Indo-Nepal relations have been fully normalised following Prime Minister K. P. Bhattarai's visit to India in June this year. The process of imparting a new dynamism and positive thrust to our multi-faceted cooperation has been continued during EAM's visit to Nepal from August 5-7, 1990. Indian Peace Keeping Forces in Sri Lanka were de-inducted ahead of schedule. We sincerely hope that ethnic conflict and violence in Sri Lanka will end and the Government and the people of Sri Lanka will establish a framework wherein all sections of the population can live and prosper in harmony. Positive momentum has been generated in our relations with Bangladesh following EAM's visit to Dhaka in February this year which was followed by a meeting in Delhi of the Joint Economic Commission under the co-Chairmanship of the Foreign Ministers of the two countries. A recent ruling by the Supreme Court of India on the leasing of Tin Bigha has paved the way for the full implementation of the Indo-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement. Our ties with Maldives have consolidated following Prime Minister's visit to Male earlier this year. We have also continued to nurture the traditionally close and friendly relations between India and Bhutan. With China, we have strengthened our dialogue at the political level and exchanges and interactions in other fields of growing. Pakistan has been the only exception to this trend. Tensions have developed in our relations due to Pakistan's support to terrorism and subversion directed against India. On our part, however, we remain committed to resolving all our differences peacefully through bilateral negotiations as provided for in the Simla Agreement.